(b) the reasons for not releasing the Time-table by the Railways so far which is normally announced on 1st July every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Railway Time-tables are published once a year and come into effect from the 1st of July. The time-tables of all the Zonal Railways have been released as per schedule.

Qualified drivers in Railways

2212. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of qualified railway drivers suitable for running long distance high speed mail and express trains;

(b) what is the present sanctioned strength of such drivers and their actual availability, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of such drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Departure and arrival of Shramjeevi Express

†2213. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates, during 1st January, 2003 to 15th July, 2003 on which Shramjeevi Express either departed late from Patna/Delhi or got late on the way and arrived New Delhi/Patna late; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The departure/arrival of 2401/2402 Patna-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express from Patna/New Delhi during the period from 1st January, 2003 to 15th July 2003 are given below.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Month	2401 UP Express Ex. Patna			2402 DN Express Ex. New Delhi		
	Run	Late Departure from Patna	Late Arrival at New Delhi	Run	Late Departure from New Delhi	Late Arrival at Patna
Jan. 03	29	27	28	29	12	25
Feb. 03	27	23	19	27	13	23
Mar. 03	31	26	21	31	2	17
April 03	29	28	28	30	12	21
May 03	31	30	28	31	15	12
June 03	30	26	28	30	27	29
July upto 15.7.03	15	11	14	15	10	15
TOTAL	192	171	166	193	91	142

(b) The main reasons for late running of this train were late arrival of pairing rake, miscreant activities, alarm chain pulling, bad weather and equipment failures etc.

Paucity of funds for developing Science and Technology

†2214. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to paucity of the funds in the field of development of science and technology, required results of development are not being achieved;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have set a target to spend upto 2 percent of Gross Domestic Product of the country in this field; and

(d) if so, by when the target would be achieved?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.